

# ***West Valley Demonstration Project Large-Scale Demonstration and Deployment Project (LSDDP) Communication Plan***

## **Summary**

Communicating experience gained through conducting the Large-Scale Demonstration and Deployment Project (LSDDP) of Hot Cells at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is a key component of the project. This communication plan describes the LSDDP of Hot Cells and identifies: those responsible for communicating project accomplishments; the audience that will receive project information; and the communication vehicles to be used. Some of these communication vehicles include:

- Fact sheets
- Innovative Technology Summary Reports
- Web Page
- Articles in DOE publications/contractor publications
- Presentations with public stakeholders
- Reports and conference calls
- Symposia
- Media events

## **Introduction**

In 2001, the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE-NETL) provided the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) with funding to conduct the LSDDP of Hot Cells, which is to be conducted between FY2002 and FY2004. The goal of the project is to select, demonstrate and deploy new or innovative technologies that can be used to complete decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) projects at DOE surplus facilities that have high risk/high cost baselines. Core project objectives are to select, demonstrate and deploy technologies that have the potential to reduce costs, shorten schedules, enhance safety, and decrease mortgage costs. Under the LSDDP of Hot Cells, technology demonstrations and deployments also are scheduled to take place at the Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) in West Jefferson, Ohio, and at the Hanford site in Richland, Washington. Both of these non-host sites have facilities that require D&D work similar to that being conducted at the WVDP.

## **Background and Problem Definition**

The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is one of the six sites being managed by the DOE Ohio Field Office. The WVDP site, located near West Valley, New York, is the site of a former nuclear fuel reprocessing facility. The primary mission of the WVDP is to complete actions articulated in the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (WVDP Act, Public Law 96-368). These actions include High-Level Waste (HLW) solidification and transport; decontamination and decommissioning of facilities, and material and hardware used to conduct the HLW solidification; and disposal of LLW and TRU wastes generated by solidifying HLW. Activities related to HLW solidification were completed in September 2002; facility decontamination and waste disposal are under way.

The WVDP has been selected as the host site for the LSDDP of Hot Cells because the two primary areas where technologies will be demonstrated are the focus of current WVDP baseline activities. Additionally, cleanup of these areas is responsive to needs identified by the Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG). Furthermore, they are representative of cleanup sites throughout the DOE Complex with high risk /high cost baselines. Areas targeted for demonstration include the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) and the General Purpose Cell (GPC), two hot cells at the WVDP site where spent nuclear fuel rods were once prepared for chemical reprocessing. Two additional cells, the Product Purification Cell (PPC) and Extraction Cell 2, also will be decontaminated. These cells were used to purify, store, and partition concentrated uranium and plutonium solutions. Radioactive waste inside these cells, including contaminated equipment and debris, is similar to that requiring remote or semi-remote removal at other DOE sites. Demonstrating and deploying new or innovative technologies at the WVDP, Battelle Columbus, and Hanford has the potential to accelerate site milestone schedules at other DOE sites.

## **West Valley Demonstration Project LSDDP Organization, Mission, and Strategic Goals**

The overall plan for the WVDP LSDDP is documented in the Project Management Plan. The project will be conducted under the technical direction of the Integrating Contractor Team (ICT).

The composition of the LSDDP Integrated Contractor Team (ICT) includes a diverse cross section of expertise and companies to ensure the selection, demonstration, evaluation, and subsequent deployment of innovative technologies to support DOE Complex needs. The six-member ICT is comprised of staff from West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNSCO), the management and operating contractor at the WVDP, Fluor Hanford, Washington Group International, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Sciencetech, and Battelle Columbus. Interfacing with the team are DOE-Ohio/WVDP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). Other participants include AEA and BNFL, Inc.

The vision for the LSDDP is to facilitate the transfer and deployment of successful, baseline-enhancing technologies to similar cleanup projects within the DOE Complex. Once technologies are selected by the ICT, they will be adapted to allow for efficient integration into baseline schedules at other DOE sites.

The focus of the LSDDP of Hot Cells is to execute the project in several phases. The first phase involves selecting technologies for demonstration and awarding subcontracts to suppliers of these

technologies. The second phase involves preparing to and conducting technology demonstrations. Demonstration includes collecting data that will be used to measure performance against current baselines. After demonstration and evaluation is completed, results will be reported through established vehicles such as Demonstration Fact Sheets and Innovative Technology Summary Reports (ITSRs) that are posted on the LSDDP web page. Completion of technology demonstrations and reporting is scheduled over the four-year period that has been defined by DOE-NETL for the LSDDP of Hot Cells.

## **Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are those individuals or organizations that have an interest or involvement in the future success of the LSDDP. Stakeholders include the public, regulatory agencies, technology developers and industry partners, and technology users.

### Public

Public audiences that have a vested interest in the WVDP and its activities include, but are not limited to:

- Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes
- Citizen Task Force
- Schools (West Valley Central School, Springville School System)
- Local government officials (Town Supervisor, etc.)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency

Public awareness of LSDDP technologies will be facilitated through quarterly public meetings; regularly scheduled meetings of the Citizen Task Force (a group of citizens that has been assembled by New York State to provide input on WVDP future activities); media coverage; and trade conferences.

### Regulatory Agencies

The WVDP maintains regular and positive working relationships with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), owner of the site property and WVDP partner; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; New York State Department of Health; and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is holding the site's operating license in abeyance while the WVDP is being conducted. The LSDDP of Hot Cells recognizes the opportunity to exchange information on the LSDDP with each of these agencies.

### Technology Developers and Industry Partners

Industry partners in the WVDP LSDDP include DOE (Ohio, Headquarters, Hanford's DOE Project Office, Battelle's DOE Project Office, Deactivation & Decommissioning Focus Area [DDFA]); government contractors; and government agencies (USACE, etc.), as well as private Industry.

### **Communications Approaches**

The WVDP LSDDP will use a variety of communications vehicles to provide key information and facilitate interaction between project participants and stakeholders. These vehicles include formal reporting, trade conferences, DOE complex reviews, media events, integration and communication with Site Technology Coordination Groups (STCGs), other LSDDPs, and an Internet site. Other avenues for communication include publications such as DOE This Month, WVDPeople (internal newsletter), Washington News (corporate magazine), and Radwaste Solutions Magazine (as well as Battelle, Hanford publications). Teleconferences, presentations and meetings (e.g. Waste Management 03, Spectrum, DOE conferences), and video (CD-ROM) will also be used as appropriate.

### Project Reporting

Project status reporting will be provided through weekly and monthly reports, as well as bimonthly conference calls. Other written reports to be provided include Demonstration Fact Sheets and Innovative Technology Summary Reports (ITSRs).

### Internet Web Site

The WVDP LSDDP web site was launched in January 2002 and will provide information on the project to many audiences. The site consists of a summary description of the LSDDP, information on the Integrating Contractor Team (ICT), Needs, Technologies, Photo Gallery, Project Documents, Links, and Contacts.

### **Industry/DOE Complex Reviews**

Periodically, DOE and industry experts may be requested to review project activities and technology demonstrations. For example, DDFA conducted a mid-year review of the WVDP LSDDP in 2002.